

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01930 200856Z
ACTION SS-25

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O 191450Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0469
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1930

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH UK BC
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: DELIVERY OF CALLAGHAN LETTER

REF: STATE 197393

1. UK HICOM TURNER, WITH ME IN SUPPORTING ROLE, MET VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE AND EXTAFF MIN MOGWE AT 2:00 P.M. TODAY TO PRESENT CALLAGHAN LETTER. ALSO PRESENT WERE PRESIDENT KHAMA'S SENIOR PRIVATE SECRETARY (POLITICAL) LEGWAILA AND DEPUTY PERMSEC, EXTAFF MIN MOGAMI. MEETING LASTED NEARLY ONE HOUR.

2. HICOM TURNER TRANSMITTED THE LETTER TO VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE NOTING IT WAS ADDRESSED TO PRES. KHAMA AND ASKING THAT IT BE TRANSMITTED TO HIM. AFTER VP AND OTHERS HAD READ TEXT, I MADE STATEMENT AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL, PARA 3, ITS REFERENCE TO INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT CARTER AND INDICATION OF HIS PERSONAL INTEREST WERE HEARD ATTENTIVELY.

3. HICOM TURNER BRIEFLY TRACED BACKGROUND TO CALLAGHAN
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LETTER NOTING THAT TWO ESSENTIAL POINTS HAD REMAINED UNRESOLVED: THAT OF FRANCHISE AND OF LAW AND ORDER. TURNER MADE A SPECIAL POINT OF NOTING THAT ALL NATIONALIST PARTIES FAVORED CONSTITUTION ON BOTSWANA MODEL. HICOM NOTED THERE COULD BE NO COMPROMISE ON QUESTION OF FRANCHISE WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE ON ONE MAN-ONE VOTE BASIS. DETAILS ON SOLUTION OF LAW AND ORDER ISSUE REMAIN TO BE

WORKED OUT BETWEEN UK RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, UN SPECIAL REP AND MILITARY COMMANDERS. HICOM NOTED THIS HAD APPARENTLY BEEN STUMBLING BLOCK THAT DELAYED MEETING OF FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS. HE ASKED IF VP MASIRE HAD CONFIRMING INFORMATION FROM TANGOV SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE. MASIRE QUOTED TANGOV REP AS SAYING THAT "PRESIDENT NYERERE DOES NOT THINK FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS MEETING WOULD SERVE ANY PURPOSE UNTIL MORE DEFINITIVE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AND AGREED TO ON LAW AND ORDER". UK HICOM SAID HE BELIEVED BROAD AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON LAW AND ORDER, ALTHOUGH DETAILS REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT (SEE ABOVE) AND THEREFORE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS COULD MEET. VP MASIRE RESPONDED THAT THE NOTION OF "AGREEMENT ON LAW AND ORDER" WAS A "NEW ONE FOR US". FINALLY, UK HICOM WENT ON TO EMPHASIZE NOVEMBER 1 AS TARGET DATE FOR REPLACEMENT OF SMITH REGIME BY UK RESIDENT COMMISSIONER AND BEGINNING OF INTERIM PERIOD.

4. LEGWAILA, MOGWE AND VP MASIRE THEN ASKED QUESTIONS, ALL OF WHICH CONCERNED THE PROBLEM OF PATRIOTIC FRONT ARMY, ITS EXISTANCE AND WHAT WOULD BECOME OF IT. LEGWAILA ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO PF ARMIES IF THEY ARE NOT GIVEN SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAW AND ORDER. MOGWE ASKED HOW PF ARMIES COULD BE EXPECTED TO "STAY IN THE BUSH" AND COMMENTED THAT THEY COULD OBVIOUSLY NOT BE CONFIDENTIAL

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LEFT THERE. VP MASIRE WORNE ABOUT LIMITATIONS OF FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS' INFLUENCE OVER PF. "DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE THEM", HE ADDED. IN REPLY, UK HICOM CONCEDED PF FORCES REPRESENTED A PROBLEM BUT ASKED WHETHER IT WAS NOT SOMETHING TO BE WORKED OUT RATHER THAN CAUSE FOR DELAYING PROGRESS TOWARD INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE. HE URGED THEM TO ADVANCE SUGGESTIONS. EXTAFF MIN MOGWE REPLIED BY STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING THIS QUESTION FURTHER AND FOCUSING A REPLY INTENSIVE EFFORT TOWARD RESOLVING IT. MOGWE SAID THE "OTHER PROPOSALS ARE FIRST CLASS; THIS IS THE STUMBLING BLOCK". THE ANSWER, HE SAID, WITH A SMILE, "WOULD BE TO CONVERT NKOMO AND MUGABE TO THE NEED TO DEVELOP A REAL ZIMBABWEAN FORCE RATHER THAN A PERSONAL ARMY".

5. CONCERNING TIMING OF FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS MEETING, MOGWE WONDERED WHETHER IT COULD OCCUR DURING LAGOS CONFERENCE. HICOM TURNER SAID JUDD WOULD REPRESENT UK AT LAGOS MEETING BECAUSE OWEN HAD TO REMAIN IN LONDON TO BRIEF UN SYG WALDHEIM.

6. FINALLY, IN RESPONSE TO MOGWE QUERY, WE NOTED

MACHEL AND NETO WERE RECEIVING SIMILAR LETTERS FROM
CALLAGHAN AND SIMILAR JOINT BRIEFINGS.

7. MEETING CONCLUDED WITH OUR REQUEST TO GOB TO
REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH AND NOT TO HESITATE IN GIVING US
THEIR VIEWS ON HOW BEST TO ACHIEVE OUR JOINT OBJECTIVE
OF PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN ZIMBABWE.
NORLAND

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 19-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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